

1. (Amended Twice) A method [for identifying telephone numbers within] performed on an electronic document containing text-based information during a communication session, comprising the steps of:

parsing said text-based information within said electronic document;

5 recognizing a text-based telephone number [a] contained within said text-based information within said parsed electronic document, said text-based telephone number comprising a plurality of number[s] symbols and at least one text symbol interspersed with said plurality of number[s] symbols; and

10 [converting] adding code to convert said recognized text-based telephone number to [an] a selectable iconic [representation] telephone number.

2. (Amended Twice) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
transparently disconnecting from said communication session upon selection of said selectable iconic representation of said recognized text-based telephone  
15 number; and

automatically dialing said selected recognized text-based telephone number to initiate a telephone [phone] call session.

4. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said parsing step [comprising]  
20 comprises the step of:

applying a parsing algorithm to said electronic document to pattern-recognize a text-based telephone number contained therein.

5. (Amended Twice) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

25 transmitting or displaying said electronic document with said iconic representation of said recognized text-based telephone number to a complementary device.

7. (Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said electronic document is a  
30 Web page, and further comprising the steps of:

converting an HTML code representation of [a] said Web page; and

adding a representation that iconifies said recognized text-based telephone number.

35 9. (Amended Twice) The method of Claim 1, wherein said selectable iconic [representation] telephone number of said recognized text-based telephone

number is identified by one of a button surrounding said recognized text-based number, font appearance, underlining, or highlighting.

10. (Amended Twice) The method of Claim 1, wherein all recognized text-based telephone numbers are each converted to an iconic representation.

11. (Amended Twice) The method of Claim 1, wherein recognized text-based telephone numbers meeting specific criteria are each converted to iconic representations.

12. (Amended Twice) The method of Claim 4, wherein said step of applying a parsing algorithm comprises the steps of:

developing a set of Picture Formats for the patterns of phone numbers;

reading an accessed electronic document;

checking every character in [the text of] said text-based information within said electronic document to determine if said character is a numeric character;

applying a pattern-recognition algorithm to sequentially check a character following an identified [number] numeric character to determine if said following character is any of numeric or an interspersed text or punctuation character;

caching a series of consecutive [numbers] identified said numeric characters; and

comparing said [caches] cached series to said Picture Formats;

wherein a matching format indicates a text-based telephone number.

13. (Amended Twice) The method of Claim 2, wherein said step of transparently disconnecting from said communication session upon selection of said iconified text-based telephone number and calling said telephone number comprises the steps of:

selecting said selectable iconic representation of said recognized text-based telephone number in a display of an access device;

said access device initiating a telephone call to said selected number if a telephone line or sufficient bandwidth is available;

said access device transparently disconnecting from said session if a telephone line is not available, and thereupon initiating a telephone call to said selected telephone number;

said access device recognizing the termination of said telephone call; and

said access device optionally transparently re-connecting to said communication session.

14. (Amended Twice) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

5 automatically storing said selectable iconic representation of said recognized text-based telephone number in an address book.

15. (Amended) A method for recognizing and accessing telephone numbers from a Web page, comprising the steps of:

10 parsing the HTML code of a Web page accessed during an Internet session;  
applying a parsing algorithm to [the text of] text-based information within said Web page to pattern-recognize a text-based telephone number contained therein;

converting said HTML code to a representation of said Web page;  
adding coding to said representation of said Web page [coding] to [iconify]  
15 produce a selectable telephone number icon associated with said recognized text-based telephone number;

transmitting said representation of said Web page with said [iconified] selectable telephone number icon to an access device for display;

transparently disconnecting from said Internet session upon selection of said  
20 [iconified] selectable telephone number icon and calling said telephone number;  
recognizing the termination of said telephone call; and  
optionally transparently re-connecting to [the] said Internet.

16. (Amended) The method of Claim [14] 15, wherein said step of applying  
25 said parsing algorithm comprises the steps of:

developing a set of Picture Formats for the patterns of text-based phone numbers;

reading an accessed HTML document using a software program on a server;  
checking every character in the [text] text-based information of said HTML  
30 document to determine if [it] said checked character is a numeric character;

using a pattern-recognition algorithm to sequentially check a character following an identified number to determine if said character is any of numeric or an interspersed text or punctuation character;

caching a series of consecutive [numbers] numeric characters; and

35 comparing said caches series to said Picture Formats;

wherein a matching format indicates a text-based telephone number.

17. (Amended) The method of Claim 15, wherein said iconified telephone number is identified by one of a button surrounding the text-based telephone number, font appearance, underlining, or highlighting.

5

18. (Amended) The method of Claim 15, wherein all recognized text-based telephone numbers are iconified.

19. (Amended) The method of Claim 15, wherein text-based telephone numbers meeting specific criteria are iconified.

10

20. (Amended) The method of Claim 15, further comprising the step of automatically storing said [iconified] selectable telephone number icon and related information in an address book.

15

21. (Amended) A system for recognizing and accessing a text-based telephone number[s] from a Web page, comprising:

a module for parsing the HTML code of a Web page accessed during an Internet session, wherein said Web page includes text-based information; and

20 a parsing algorithm used by said module to pattern-recognize [a] said text-based telephone number contained in [the text] said text-based information of said Web page.

22. (Amended) The system of Claim 21, further comprising:

25 a conversion module used to convert said parsed HTML code to a representation of said Web page; and

an iconifying module used by said conversion module to add to said representation coding to iconify said recognized text-based telephone number.